



American Citizen Bulletin

March 2011

PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE LATE – OR TOO EARLY — OR YOUR ACS APPOINTMENT

We all know that Beijing traffic is unpredictable, but we ask that you arrive within 30 minutes of your scheduled ACS appointment. In an effort to efficiently serve all our applicants in a timely manner, Embassy guards will only admit those with ACS appointments within 30 minutes of the specified time.

TAX TIME AND IRS REPRESENTATIVE AT THE U.S. EMBASSY

Do you have questions regarding your U.S. taxes? Would you like to meet with our IRS Representative? Visit our [website](#) for more information regarding where to send your inquiries and to schedule an appointment with our IRS Representative. American Citizen Services will not have tax forms available in our office this year.

⇒ All tax forms are now available [here](#).

CHANGES AFFECTING THE CHINESE VISA APPLICATION PROCESS

On January 1 the Chinese embassies and consulates in the U.S. and around the world started using a new visa application form; the old version can be used until June 30. Note that the form changes only apply to applications for entry visas issued at Chinese embassies and consulates. The forms used at the PSB Entry/Exit Bureau in China for the extension/ renewal of visas will not change. Applicants must print the double-sided form after downloading. Fill in the form clearly and completely according to the instructions. Visit the Chinese Embassy in the United States' [website](#) for more information regarding the updated forms.

NEW U.S. PASSPORT FORMS

New U.S. passport forms will be used beginning March 1. You can fill them out online ahead of your appointment, then print the form and **bring the applications with you to your appointment**. Click [here](#) for forms. The updated passport forms include:

DS-11: Application for a U.S. Passport

DS-82: U.S. Passport Renewal Application for Eligible Individuals

DS-4085: Application for Additional Visa Pages or Miscellaneous Passport Services

DS-5504: Application for a U.S. Passport (Name Change, Data Correction, Limited Passport Replacement

DS-3053: Statement of Consent or Special Circumstances: Issuance of a Passport to a Minor under Age 16

NEW CONSULAR REPORT OF BIRTH ABROAD (CRBA) INTRODUCED

The Department of State is pleased to announce the introduction of the redesigned Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA, or Form FS-240). Overseas posts will continue to document the citizenship of children born overseas to U.S.-citizen parents, but CRBAs will now be printed at our passport agencies in the United States. The new CRBAs have many new security features.

TEA HOUSE SCAM

American Citizen Services frequently receives reports from victims of the popular “tea house” scam. The scenario often involves young Chinese “English students,” often women, who offer to show you around and then invite you to join them for tea at a nearby restaurant. When the bill comes, they leave or provide some excuse for their inability to pay, and the restaurant owners, usually very large men, force you to pay an exorbitant bill before you are allowed to leave the premises. Other times, couples target other couples and sometimes even offer to split the bill – which is often more than \$1000. If you have family or friends visiting China, please warn them about this scam. We also suggest they visit our website for information regarding living and traveling around China.

VOTER POSTER AND SLOGAN CONTESTS – OPEN TO ALL AMERICANS

Show how creative you are and win international fame and a trip for two to Washington, DC! For the first time ever, the Federal Voting Assistance Program is opening its biennial voting [poster contest](#) and [slogan contest](#) to all U.S. citizens worldwide. There is no limit to the number of entries an individual may submit for either contest. All entries must be received by **April 8, 2011**.

DEPARTING CHINA WITH PETS: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR OWNERS



Are you planning to take your pets with you when you leave China? The International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS) is offering the following free community event on March 26: “Departing from China with Pets.” For more information visit their [website](#).

Disclaimer: Neither the U.S. Embassy nor the State Department endorses or promotes specific providers or services. The information is given as a resource only and is not meant to imply endorsement.

JOIN THE EMBASSY’S SMART TRAVELER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM (REGISTRATION)

The current political unrest in the Middle East and the earthquake in New Zealand is a reminder of how crises quickly emerge and the importance of enrolling with the U.S. Embassy for the duration of your stay in China. Your enrollment helps us contact you in an emergency situation. If you are getting this bulletin by e-mail directly from the Embassy in Beijing, you are already enrolled but please be sure your American friends and families are also enrolled. Click [here](#) to enroll.

